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OO RUEHAG RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHLH RUEHPW RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHAH #0365 0791219
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 201219Z MAR 09 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2506
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 4962
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2722
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2587
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3206
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RHMFISS/CDR USTRANSCOM SCOTT AFB IL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 3408

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 000365

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/20/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: OVERFLIGHT CAP ISSUE RAISED WITH MFA

REF: ASHGABAT 0350

Classified By: Charge Richard Miles for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) DCM raised on March 20 the cap on the number of overflights of U.S. humanitarian flights transiting Turkmenistan's airspace to Afghanistan with MFA America's Department Director, Serdar Bashimov. She noted that with the ramping up of operations in Afghanistan, the two sides needed to discuss the possibility of raising the limit. Bashimov replied that he understood the necessity of having such a discussion and promised to relay the U.S. desire to meet regarding this topic to FM Meredov.

[1](#)2. (C) COMMENT: It is imperative that U.S. officials meet with Meredov. Charge has had a pending request to meet with the Foreign Minister for the past few weeks. He still hopes to meet with Meredov soon, possibly not until the Foreign Minister returns from Moscow next week. Nevertheless, as Post made clear in reftel, in order to raise the cap, it will take preferably a high-level DOD civilian or possibly a high-level representative from the Department to bring additional weight to bear. END COMMENT.
MILES